

Serial No.: 10/678,830
Filing Date: October 3, 2003

Examiner: Lee D. Wilson
Art Unit: 3723

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 have been canceled without prejudice. New claim 27 has been added.

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-26 over:

Blatlock (U.S. 7,037,179)
Bennett (U.S. 2002/0081956A1)
Selvamanickam, et al. (U.S. 2004/0132382A1)
Schultz, et al. (U.S. 6,929,539)
Ono (U.S. 2004/0055223)

However in making the rejection of claim 23, the Examiner implicitly noted that none of the cited references taught coating a chemical mechanical polishing pad by vacuum metallization, sputtering or electroless plating. As a result, new claim 27 is directed to the foregoing coating processes. Former claim 23 had been directed to the foregoing coating processes plus dip, spray and spin coating. The Examiner had rejected former claim 23 based upon Ono's purported disclosure of dip, spray and spin coating. As a result, new claim 27 is submitted directed towards vacuum metallization, sputtering and electroless plating as coating methods.

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CONCLUSION

Based upon the remarks and the previous office action, it is believed that this application is currently in a condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If the Examiner perceives of any reason why this application should not be immediately allowed, a telephonic conference is respectfully requested prior to issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully Submitted


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